

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

September 30, 2005

This report covers events surrounding the African Burial Ground (ABG) Project for the period of July 1 through September 30, 2005.

Introduction

The activities for this reporting period include the ceremonial groundbreaking for the permanent memorial, preparation for the move of the OPEI operations, resumption of work on the Archaeology Report, negotiations for the award of modification of the contract for the Integrated and Popular Reports and printing of the technical reports, significant progress on the archives project, and receipt of replicated artifacts from Colonial Williamsburg. Also, the NPS initiated the assessment for the determination of the historic significance of the ABG for possible designation as a National Monument. A list of meetings, telephone conferences, and public outreach events (OPEI), held during this reporting period is provided as Appendix A.

Activities of the Reporting Period

Education/Outreach (OPEI)

Throughout the period, OPEI staff made off-site presentations and conducted tours of the African Burial Ground site. Work in September, however, focused mainly on preparing for the move of OPEI operations to 290 Broadway. During the transition period beginning on October 1 and pending the decision on a permanent management plan for the Project, OPEI services will be managed by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

OPEI staff assisted on September 28 with the ceremonial groundbreaking for the permanent African Burial Ground memorial. The event included remarks by Stephen A. Perry, US GSA Administrator; Donald W. Murphy, Deputy Director, National Park Service; Howard Dodson, Director, Schomburg Center; and Rodney Léon, designer of the memorial; and was hosted by Eileen Long-Chelales, GSA Northeast & Caribbean Regional Administrator. Students from Frederick Douglass Academy II in Harlem also participated in the ceremony. Carrying flags bearing the Sankofa symbol, logo for the African Burial Ground Project, the students escorted speakers and other special guests to the location on which the memorial's Libation Chamber will be erected. Together they raised the flags, and then lowered them to define the circular area.

In September, the Schomburg Center produced *African Burial Ground News*, a special edition newsletter that was distributed by mail to the OPEI list. OPEI staff and volunteers also distributed the newsletter and NPS management recommendation summaries at the groundbreaking and other commemorative events organized by the Schomburg Center that took place between September 30 and October 2. The events comprising *Africans in the Americas: Celebrating the Ancestral Heritage 2006* drew nearly 4,000 participants, 1,500 of them New York City schoolchildren who participated in the September 30 Ring Shout outlining the entire perimeter of the African Burial Ground.

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

National Monument Status (NPS)

The President of the United States has requested the NPS provide an assessment of the historic significance of the African Burial Ground to determine if a recommendation for Federal protection through its designation as a National Monument is warranted. The NPS assessment and determination is being prepared and will be submitted by November 2005.

Interpretive Center (NPS)

The NPS and GSA continued to develop the scope of work for the construction of an Interpretive Center in the lobby of 290 Broadway in conjunction with the preparation by the NPS of the draft Management Recommendations Report. The draft Management Recommendations Report was released at the groundbreaking ceremony on September 28, 2005. The report was also sent out to the public and made available online at the project website for review and comment. Comments are due back to the NPS by November 5, 2005.

Exterior Memorial (NPS)

The groundbreaking ceremony, which included participation by Administrator Steven Perry, was held on September 28, 2005 to mark the site where the memorial will be built. Construction of the memorial is scheduled to begin in December 2005.

Technical Studies (Corps/Howard University)

After a brief delay, the Howard University Archaeology team has resumed work on the Archaeology Report. Based on the schedule developed as part of the modification of the contract that will provide additional funds for the completion of the report, the Final Report Manuscript, Version 1 is anticipated to be provided to the report's Advisory Review Board, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission by December 23, 2005. After its final review and the incorporation of any remaining comments, it is anticipated that the final Archaeology Report will be accepted by GSA and placed on the website by the end of February, 2006.

As of the end of September, the Archaeology team was able to begin editing and reworking several chapters and formatting and inserting graphics into chapters. The co-principal investigators met with the technical experts in ceramics and macrobotany regarding their individual reports.

Negotiations for the award of the modification for the preparation of the Integrated and Popular Reports as well as the printing of all reports, including the three technical reports is ongoing. The Corps and HU have held several conference calls to review the scope and discuss the level of effort for each task. HU is currently revising their proposal and creating a schedule for completion of the project.

HU will also serve as the interim curation repository for the osteological samples as the curation agreement with the Schomburg Center is developed. HU has begun to retrieve and curate the osteological samples that were housed with the individual Skeletal Biology report team members.

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

Archives Project (Corps)

During this reporting period the MCX archival team completed photocopying original documentation from the Howard University History Department Record Group and transferred these materials to Dr. Edna Greene-Medford. A preliminary listing of this record group was completed and the records are scheduled for archival processing. The Intellifoto Record Group, composed exclusively of digital images in multiple file formats, was transferred from the Schomburg Center to the MCX in St. Louis. The MCX created a complete copy of all images in jpg format, copied these files, and provided said copy to the Schomburg Center for their use. A preliminary inventory of these materials has been created and the records are ready for archival processing. Approximately four linear feet of paper records and 25,000 slide images, under the care of Dr. Michael Blakey, were transferred to the MCX from the College of William and Mary. Initial arrangements have been made with JMA offices in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and Fairfax, Virginia, to transfer these record groups to the MCX after January 1, 2006.

All paper and photographic materials in the Cobb Laboratory Record Group and the Reconciliation and Reinterment Series of the MCX Project Files Record Group have been arranged, repackaged according to modern archival standards, and described in archival finding aids. MCX staff is currently reviewing entries in the photograph catalog database, designed specifically for this project. Consultation with members of the Schomburg Center staff continues to ensure acceptance of the collection at the designated curation repository. A complete electronic copy, on CD-Roms, of Flatiron's ABG Website was received at the MCX as well. A preliminary inventory of these materials will be created as soon as possible and this Record Group will be archivally processed according to the overall processing schedule.

A cooperative agreement for the curation of the ABG collection has been drafted and submitted to GSA for their review. Initial contacts with Dr. Howard Dodson of the Schomburg Center have been made regarding the cooperative agreement. Once GSA approval of the draft is secured, negotiations with the Schomburg Center may begin.

Artifact Replication (Corps)

Artisans at Colonial Williamsburg have completed a number of the items they were contracted to replicate prior to the reburial in October 2003. The items completed include a number of metal buttons, bone buttons, three dozen straight pins, and three pairs of engraved brass cufflinks. The silversmiths are continuing to work on other items, such as the glass paste rings and cufflinks with enamel decoration, and hope to have them completed before the end of the year.

Website (GSA)

GSA has taken steps to enhance and improve the presentation and organization of material on the African Burial Ground website. Primary efforts include: posting the most recent information on the National Park Service Draft Management Recommendations; facilitating the public comment period by providing an online questionnaire; updating OPEI office information; adding memorial groundbreaking material to the site; and repositioning many of the postings that appear on the opening page into the suitable categories on the left-hand navigation.

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

Appendix A

Timeline of Meetings and Telephone Conferences conducted by the ABG Project Team

July 1 to September 30, 2005

July 7, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
July 21, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
Aug 4, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
Aug 18, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
Sept 8, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
Sept 22, 2005	ABG Team Meeting/Conference call (GSA/Corps/NPS/OPEI), New York City
Sept 28, 2005	Ground-breaking ceremony held for the Exterior Memorial; NPS Draft Management Recommendations Report released for public review.
Sept 29, 2005	Corps trip to Williamsburg to retrieve archives from Dr. Blakey at the College of William and Mary, from September 29 to October 2, 2005

OPEI JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2005 Meetings and Public Outreach

	JUNE 2005		
DATE (TIME)	INSTITUTION	SERVICE	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
Wednesday 6.01.05 (10am)	PS 20K	Film & Tour (on-site)	50
Wednesday 6.1.05 (12:30pm)	Wadleigh HS	Film (offsite)	25
Thursday 6.2.05 (10am)	PS 18K	Site Tour (on-site)	54

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

Thursday 6.2.05 (10:30am)	Beach Channel HS	Film (offsite)	35
Friday 6.3.05 (5pm)	Prospect Park Youth Council	Film (offsite)	20
Saturday 6.4.05 (5pm)	St. Luke F.B.H. Church	Film (offsite)	Cancelled
Monday 6.6.05 (8:20am)	ACORN Community	Film (offsite) <i>3 film showings</i>	24
Tuesday 6.7.05 (10am)	Baccalaureate School	Site Tour (on-site)	75
Tuesday 6.7.05 (3:15pm)	Mt. St. Ursula Academy	Film (offsite)	20
Wednesday 6.8.05 (10am)	JHS 117X	Site Tour (on-site)	30
Wednesday 6.8.05 (10:30am)	MS 113	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	47 Cancelled
Thursday 6.9.05 (9am)	JHS 117X	Film (offsite)	30
Thursday 6.9.05 (10:30am)	PS 130X	Site Tour (on-site)	20
Friday 6.10.05 (10:30am)	PS/IS 109	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	60
Friday 6.10.05 (11:30am)	ACORN Community	Film (offsite) <i>3 film showings</i>	24
Monday 6.13.05 (10:00am)	PS/IS 308K	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	27
Tuesday 6.14.05 (10:30am)	PS/IS 188	Site Tour (on-site)	30
Friday 6.17.05 (10am)	PS 76	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	62
Friday 6.17.05 (12pm)	8 th Intergenerational Festival	Information Desk	400 (approx.)
Saturday 6.18.05 (11pm)	The Juneteenth- King Fest Celebration	Information Table	400 (approx.)
Sunday 6.19.05 (2pm)	P.O.P.	Film (offsite)	?
Monday 6.20.05 (9:00am)	PS 130X	Film (offsite)	20
Monday 6.20.05 (9:30am)	MS 113	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	20
Tuesday 6.21.05 (10:30am)	PS/IS 188	Film (offsite)	40 (approx.)
Tuesday 6.21.05 (1pm)	NYC Dept. of Ed.	Film (offsite)	50 (approx.)
Tuesday 6.21.05 (3:30pm)	Featherbed Lane	Film (offsite)	40 (approx.)
Wednesday 6.22.05 (10am)	PS 138	Site Tour (on-site)	60

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

Thursday 6.23.05 (10:30am)	Bay Eden Senior Center	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	55
Saturday 6.25.05 (12pm)	201 Varick Street	Open to the Public	?
Tuesday 6.28.05 (3pm)	Doris G. Lango-Leak	Site Tour (on-site)	52
	JULY 2005		
DATE (TIME)	INSTITUTION	SERVICE	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
Wednesday 7.06.05 (2:00pm)	Abyssinian Development Corp.	Film & Tour (on-site)	49
Thursday 7.07.05 (10:00am)	Mt. Vernon Recreation Dept.	Film & Tour (on-site)	40
Friday 7.08.05 (1:00pm)	Citizens Advice Bureau	Site Tour (on site)	23
Tuesday 7.12.05 (2:00pm)	Mind Builders	Site Tour (on-site)	20
Wednesday 7.13.05 (12:45pm)	Boys Club of New York	Film & Site Tour (on-site) <i>3 film showings</i>	20 (approximate)
Wednesday 7.13.05 (2:00pm)	Melinda Holm (individual appointment)	Film (on-site)	01
Thursday 7.14.05 (2:00pm)	Coney Island Learning Center	Film (on site) <i>(Feel It In My Bones)</i>	15
Friday 7.15.05 (2:30pm)	African American Professionals of SBC	Site Tour (on-site)	40
Friday 7.15.05 (7:00pm)	Grissom Family Reunion	Film (offsite)	50 (approximate)
Monday 7.18.05 (11:00am)	Alonzo A. Daughtry	Film (on-site)	29
Monday 7.18.05 (2:00pm)	New Song Learning Partnership	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	20 (approximate)
Tuesday 7.19.05 (1:30pm)	Chinatown YMCA	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	43
Wednesday 7.20.05 (1:00pm)	Chinatown YMCA	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	43
Thursday 7.21.05 (1:00pm)	St. Aloysius Education Clinic	Site Tour & Film (on-site) <i>3 film showings</i>	32
Tuesday 7.26.05 (1:00pm)	Up From Slavery	Site Tour & Film (offsite) <i>4 film showings</i>	40
Wednesday	Bushwick Beacon	Site Tour & Film	66

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

7.27.05 (1:00pm)	Lighthouse		
Friday 7.29.05 (10:00am)	21 st Century Community Learning Center @ G.H.M.C.A.	Site Tour & Film	20
	AUGUST 2005		
DATE (TIME)	INSTITUTION	SERVICE	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
Tuesday 8.2.05 (10am)	Single Parent/ Mr. Rozier	Film (offsite)	40 (approx.)
Tuesday 8.2.05 (12:30pm)	Horace Greene Daycare	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	25
Wednesday 8.3.05 (11am)	Single Parent Resource Center	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	20
Thursday 8.4.05 (11am)	Single Parent Resource	Site Tour (on-site)	20
Thursday 8.4.05 (2pm)	Recycle a Bicycle Program	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	12
Thursday 8.4.05 (2pm)	Two Together	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	20
Friday 8.5.05 (1pm)	Franklin Township Summer Child Care Program	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	60
Monday 8.8.05 (10:30am)	Lehman Village Community Center	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	45
Tuesday 8.9.05 (10am)	Gravesend Community Center	Site Tour (on-site)	27
Wednesday 8.10.05 (10am)	Roots Revisited	Site Tour (on-site)	58
Thursday 8.11.05 (2:30pm)	Camp Eureka	Film (off-site)	?
Friday 8.12.05 (10am)	Outreach Second Opportunity School	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	40
Tuesday 8.16.05 (10am)	NYCHA –Dept. of Comm. Operation Wyckoff Gardens	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	25
Tuesday 8.16.05 (1pm)	Gravesend Community Center	Film (off-site)	50 (approx.)
Wednes. 8.17.05 (10am)	Police Athletic League	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	56
Thursday 8.18.05 (2pm)	Ocean Hill Community Center	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	35
Friday 8.19.05 (10:30am)	F.E.G.S. Beacon Program	Site Tour & Film (on-site)	40
Monday 8.22.05 (10am)	SQPA-NY	Film (off-site)	40 (approx.)
Tuesday 8.23.05 (10am)	SQPA-NY	Film (off-site)	40 (approx.)
Saturday 8.27.05 (10am)	Coalition for Good Gov.'t (Annual Day of Prayer)	Site Tour (on-site)	60 (approx.)

Quarterly Report
African Burial Ground Project
Pursuant to the Amended Memorandum of Agreement

Saturday 8.27.05 (12pm)	Annual Day of Prayer	Annual Day of Prayer	60 (approx.)
----------------------------	----------------------	----------------------	--------------